UNITED NATIONS

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.
GENERAL

FCCC/SBSTA/1996/13
24 October 1996

Original: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Third session
Geneva, 9-16 July 1996

REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRD SESSION GENEVA, 9-16 JULY 1996

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	OPENING OF THE SESSION (Agenda item 1)	1 - 2	4
II.	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (Agenda item 2)	3 - 13	4
	A. Adoption of the agenda	3 - 6	4
	B. Election of officers other than the Chairman	7	5
	C. Organization of the work of the session	8 - 9	5
	D. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to the Conference of the Parties		10 - 11
6			
	E. Attendance	12	6
	F. Documentation	13	6

		Paragraphs	Page
III.	SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS: CONSIDERATION AND USE OF THE SECOND ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (Agenda item 3)	14 - 20	7
IV.	NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda item 4)	21 - 30	8
	A. Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration	21 - 25	8
	B. Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration	26 - 30	9
V.	ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY UNDER THE PILOT PHASE (Agenda item 5)	31 - 38	10
VI.	DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES (Agenda item 6)	39 - 45	12
VII.	MECHANISMS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda item 7)	46 - 50	12
VIII.	PROGRAMME OF WORK (Agenda item 8)	51 - 70	14
	A. Establishment of a roster of experts	51 - 56	14
	B. Research and observation issues	57 - 62	15
	C. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	63 - 67	16
	D. Review of the longer-term programme	68 - 70	17

		Paragraphs	Page
IX.	REPORT ON THE SESSION	71 - 72	17
	(Agenda item 9)		

Annexes

I.	Documents before the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its third session	18
II.	Scientific assessments: consideration and use of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: summary by the Chairman of the SBSTA of discussion and draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its second session	21

I. OPENING OF THE SESSION
(Agenda item 1)

1. The third session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (hereinafter referred to as "the SBSTA") was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva from 9 to 16 July 1996.

2. The Chairman of the SBSTA, Mr. Tibor Faragó, opened the session at the 1st meeting, on 9 July 1996. He welcomed all participants, and expressed his pleasure at being re-elected as Chairman of the SBSTA by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its second session.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
(Agenda item 2)

A. Adoption of the agenda
(Agenda item 2 (a))

3. At its 1st meeting, on 9 July, the SBSTA considered the provisional agenda contained in document FCCC/CP/1996/1.

4. A statement was made by the representative of one Party.

5. At the same meeting, the SBSTA adopted the provisional agenda as orally amended, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organizational matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda;
   (b) Election of officers other than the Chairman;
   (c) Organization of the work of the session;
   (d) Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to the Conference of the Parties.

3. Scientific assessments: consideration and use of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

4. National communications:

   (a) Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration;

(b) Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration.

5. Activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase.

6. Development and transfer of technologies.

7. Mechanisms for consultations with non-governmental organizations.

8. Programme of work:

(a) Establishment of a roster of experts;
(b) Research and observation issues;
(c) Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
(d) Review of the longer-term programme.

9. Report on the session.

6. The SBSTA also agreed to consider and make recommendations on a number of issues referred to it by the Conference of the Parties (see FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 21 (c) and (d)).

B. Election of officers other than the Chairman
(Agenda item 2 (b))

7. At its 1st meeting, on 9 July, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on the election of officers other than the Chairman. The Chairman informed the SBSTA that the President of the Conference of the Parties was continuing his consultations on the election of officers of the Bureau other than the President. Since the elections of officers of the Conference of the Parties and those of the SBSTA, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Ad Hoc Group on Article 13 were being considered as a package, the SBSTA agreed to the Chairman's proposal to await the outcome of these consultations before considering further the issue of the election of SBSTA officers other than the Chairman. Subsequently, it did not prove possible to reach an agreement (see FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 18).

C. Organization of the work of the session
(Agenda item 2 (c))

8. The SBSTA considered the sub-item on organization of the work of the session at its 1st meeting, on 9 July, during which the Chairman recalled the need to start on time as otherwise services for interpretation would be lost. He noted that the Conference of the Parties would

consider items in an integrated way and therefore coordination would be required between the SBSTA and the SBI on items appearing on the agendas of both these bodies. He expressed his intention to work with the Chairman of the SBI to ensure such coordination. Any recommendations to the COP for the adoption of decisions would be contained in in-session documents of the Conference of the Parties, combining, where relevant, the inputs from the SBSTA and the SBI.

9. Statements were made by the representatives of four Parties.

D. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to the Conference of the Parties

(Agenda item 2 (d))

1. Proceedings

10. At its 6th meeting, on 11 July, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on the report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to the Conference of the Parties.

2. Conclusions

11. The SBSTA noted that the reports of the SBSTA on its first and second sessions would be before the Conference of the Parties at its second session. It requested the Chairman of the SBSTA to provide an oral report to the plenary of the COP on the progress achieved by the SBSTA at its third session (see FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 63).

E. Attendance

12. For the lists of attendance at the third session of the SBSTA, see the report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session, Part One, chapter II, section J (FCCC/CP/1996/15).

F. Documentation

13. The documents before the SBSTA at its third session are listed in annex I, below.

III. SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS: CONSIDERATION AND USE OF THE SECOND ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(Agenda item 3)

1. Proceedings

14. At its 1st, 2nd, 9th and 10th meetings, on 9, 15 and 16 July, the SBSTA discussed the item on the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

15. The following documents provided the background for discussion: FCCC/CP/1996/5 and Add.1-3 (double symbol document; see also FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Rev.1 and Add.1-3/Rev.1); FCCC/CP/1996/10; FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.4; FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8, paras. 18-32 (containing a previous discussion on the item), and decision 6/CP.1[1] outlining the terms of reference of the SBSTA.

16. The discussion was prefaced by a statement by the Chairman of the IPCC who also responded to questions.

17. Statements were made by the representatives of 50 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and another speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

18. Representatives of two States not parties to the Convention also made statements.

19. A representative of a non-governmental organization made a statement.

2. Conclusions

20. After informal consultations, the SBSTA decided that the Chairman should present his summary of the discussion and draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its second session (FCCC/CP/1996/L.11). (See also annex II, below.)

---

[1] See document FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

IV. NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
(Agenda item 4)

A. Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration

1. Proceedings

21. At its 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th meetings, on 9, 10, 12 and 15 July, respectively, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.

22. The corresponding item of the COP agenda was referred to the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 21 (d)).

23. The SBSTA had before it the following documents: "Proposed revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties" (see FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9 and Add.1 and 2); "National communications from Annex I Parties" (for summaries, see document series FCCC/NC/...); "Compilation and synthesis of first national communications: executive summary" (FCCC/CP/1996/12); "Compilation and synthesis of first national communications" (FCCC/CP/1996/12/Add.1); "Tables of inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removals and projections for 2000" (FCCC/CP/1996/12/Add.2); "Comments from Parties" (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.4); as well as available in-depth review reports and their summaries (document series FCCC/IDR.1/(country code)).

24. Statements were made by the representatives of 22 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States and another speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. Conclusions

25. At its 8th meeting, on 15 July, having considered a proposal made by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA took note of secretariat document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9, including the proposal for revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Annex I Parties, and of the technical aspects of the second compilation and synthesis of first national communications (FCCC/CP/1996/12 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) The SBSTA decided to recommend, in conjunction with the SBI, a draft decision on guidelines, schedule and process for the consideration of communications from Parties included in Annex I (FCCC/CP/1996/L.13 and Add.1) for adoption by the Conference of the

Parties at its second session. For the text of the decision by the Conference of the Parties, see decision 9/CP.2.[2]

(c) The SBSTA invited Parties to submit their views on the methodological issues identified in secretariat documents FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9/Add.1 and 2, as well as on other methodological issues related to national communications from Annex I Parties, by 15 October 1996, for possible inclusion in the programme of work of the SBSTA.

(d) The SBSTA invited the SBI and the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM), should they deem fit, to consider the implications of methodological issues, such as those considered in documents FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9 and Add.1 and 2, in their own work.

B. Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, facilitation and process for consideration

1. Proceedings

26. At its 3rd, 4th and 10th meetings, on 10 and 16 July, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on communications from Parties not included in Annex I.

27. The corresponding item of the COP agenda was referred to the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 21 (d)).

28. The SBSTA had before it document FCCC/SB/1996/MISC.1/Add.1, containing the position paper of the Group of 77 and China on recommendations on guidelines and format for the preparation of initial communications from non-Annex I Parties, which had also been before the SBSTA at its second session. It also had before it document FCCC/SB/1996/L.2 containing a draft decision of the SBSTA and the SBI proposed by the Group of 77 and China on guidelines and format for the preparation of initial communications from Parties not included in Annex I.

29. Statements were made by the representatives of nine Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and another speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

---

[2] For decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see document FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

2. Conclusions

30. At its 10th meeting, on 16 July, having considered a proposal made by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA took note of document FCCC/SB/1996/L.2;

(b) The SBSTA decided to recommend, in conjunction with the SBI, a draft decision on guidelines, facilitation and process for the consideration of communications from Parties not included in Annex I (FCCC/CP/1996/L.12) for adoption by the COP at its second session. For the text of the decision by the Conference of the Parties, see decision 10/CP.2.

V. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY UNDER THE PILOT PHASE
(Agenda item 5)

1. Proceedings

31. At its 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 10, 11, 12 and 15 July, respectively, the SBSTA considered the item on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase.

32. The corresponding item of the COP agenda was referred to the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 21 (c)).

33. The SBSTA had before it a progress report prepared by the secretariat (FCCC/CP/1996/14 and Add.1).

34. Statements were made by the representatives of 32 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and another speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

35. A few Parties mentioned that the progress report contained information that had not been confirmed by all Parties concerned, and in some cases needed to be corrected.

36. The representative of a State not party to the Convention also made a statement.

37. The representative of a non-governmental organization made a statement.

2. Conclusions

38. At its 8th meeting, on 15 July, having considered a proposal made by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA requested the secretariat to make suggestions with regard to a uniform reporting format to promote the consistency of reports with the initial reporting framework and to prepare an initial list of methodological issues for consideration at the next session of the SBSTA. Parties could submit views on the reporting format and the list of methodological issues by 1 September 1996;

(b) The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize a round table on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase (AIJ) in conjunction with the fourth session of the SBSTA in December 1996. This round table should provide for the exchange of information and experience on ongoing AIJ projects and programmes;

(c) The SBSTA requested the secretariat to integrate information on AIJ in the CC:INFO database and reporting system and to implement an information exchange on AIJ in the context of CC:INFO information exchange activities;

(d) Noting that reports may be submitted at any time, the SBSTA invited the secretariat to prepare in concise form a first update reflecting reports and submissions by Parties for the fourth session of the SBSTA in December 1996;

(e) The SBSTA invited Parties to report in accordance with the initial reporting framework. The deadline for the submission of reports to be taken into account in the synthesis report for the third session of the Conference of the Parties would be announced at the fourth session of SBSTA;

(f) The SBSTA recalled that Parties had been invited to identify the relevant governmental authority or ministry authorized to accept, approve or endorse activities implemented jointly and to report them to the Conference of the Parties through the secretariat;

(g) The SBSTA recalled that the financing of activities implemented jointly shall be additional to the financial obligations of Parties included in Annex II to the Convention within the framework of the financial mechanism as well as to current official development assistance flows;

(h) The SBSTA decided to recommend, in conjunction with the SBI, a draft decision on activities implemented jointly under the pilot phase (FCCC/CP/1996/L.7) for adoption by the COP at its second session. For the text of the decision by the Conference of the Parties, see decision 8/CP.2.

VI. DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES
(Agenda item 6)

1. Proceedings

39. At its 6th and 10th meetings, on 11 and 16 July, respectively, the SBSTA considered the item on development and transfer of technologies.

40. The corresponding item of the COP agenda was referred to the SBSTA and the SBI by the Conference of the Parties, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 July (see FCCC/CP/1996/15, para. 21 (c)).

41. The SBSTA had before it two documents prepared by the secretariat on this matter (FCCC/CP/1996/11 and FCCC/SBSTA/1996/4/Add.2).

42. Statements were made by the representatives of nine Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States and another speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

43. The representative of a State not party to the Convention also made a statement.

44. The representative of an intergovernmental organization made a statement.

2. Conclusions

45. At its 10th meeting, on 16 July, having considered a proposal made by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, the SBSTA requested the SBI to prepare a draft decision on the development and transfer of technologies, to be recommended by both subsidiary bodies for adoption by the COP at its second session. This draft decision is contained in document FCCC/CP/1996/L.16. For the text of the decision by the Conference of the Parties, see decision 7/CP.2.

VII. MECHANISMS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
(Agenda item 7)

1. Proceedings

46. At its 4th and 6th meetings, on 10 and 11 July, respectively, the SBSTA considered the item on mechanisms for consultations with non-governmental organizations.

47 The SBSTA had before it a note by the secretariat on this matter (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/11) and a compilation of the views of non-governmental organizations (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.2).

48 Statements were made by the representatives of five Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

49 Statements were made by the representatives of two non-governmental organizations.

2. Conclusions

50 On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman, the SBSTA, at its 6th meeting, on 11 July, adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA expressed appreciation for documents FCCC/SBSTA/1996/11 and FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.2 on consultative mechanisms for non-governmental inputs to the Convention;

(b) The SBSTA recognized the importance of the role which business and industry, municipal leaders and local authorities, and environmental organizations can play in implementing the objective of the Convention;

(c) The SBSTA welcomed the contributions made at the workshop on consultative mechanisms for non-governmental organization inputs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held on 2 March 1996. Since consensus on mechanisms for consultation had not yet been reached by non-governmental organizations participating in the workshop, the SBSTA proposed that for the time being emphasis should be given to improving existing consultative processes;

(d) The SBSTA therefore proposed that as a next step the secretariat should explore further with non-governmental groups current mechanisms and procedures for consultation with a view to establishing how they might be made more efficient. The suggestion was made in this regard that it would be helpful also to examine the initiatives that the IPCC is taking to obtain access to a wider range of expertise in the technological areas. On the basis of these discussions, a paper could be prepared for consideration by the SBSTA at its fourth session with the aim of reaching a conclusive decision on the creation of a consultative mechanism.

VIII. PROGRAMME OF WORK
(Agenda item 8)

A. Establishment of a roster of experts
(Agenda item 8 (a))

1. Proceedings

51. At its 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 10th meetings, on 10, 11, 12 and 16 July, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on the establishment of a roster of experts.

52. The SBSTA had before it a note by the secretariat on this matter (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/10), as well a compilation of the views of Parties (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.4).

53. Statements were made by the representatives of 10 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, another speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and another speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

54. The SBSTA recalled that the Conference of the Parties, earlier in its second session, had requested the SBSTA to revert to the question of the establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s) at a future session, to be specified, in the light of any experience gained from the operation of any roster of experts.

55. The SBSTA also recalled that it had requested the SBI to prepare a draft decision on the development and transfer of technologies, to be recommended by both subsidiary bodies, for adoption by the COP at its second session. (For the text of the decision by the Conference of the Parties, see decision 7/CP.2.) Furthermore, the SBSTA requested the SBI to consider, in that context, the role of a roster of experts.

2. Conclusions

56. On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman, at its 10th meeting, on 16 July, the SBSTA, noting the progress that had been made in the SBI on this matter, decided to take up the issues of a roster of experts and intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s) at a future session, taking into account any experience that would be developed with a roster.

B. Research and observation issues
(Agenda item 8 (b))

1. Proceedings

57. At its 6th meeting, on 11 July, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on research and observation issues.

58. The SBSTA had before it a note by the secretariat on this matter (SBSTA/1996/10/Add.1).

59. Statements were made by the representatives of six Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Temperate Southern Hemisphere Countries (the Valdivia Group).[3]

60. The representative of a State not party to the Convention also made a statement.

61. A statement was also made by the representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in which reference was made, *inter alia*, to its global database on the sea level, which it offered to make available to Parties. A statement was also made by the representative of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in which willingness was indicated to support the IPCC in the development of a special report on aviation, if the IPCC would prepare such a report for the SBSTA. The Chairman of the SBSTA noted the significance of such a report, and indicated that he would bring this to the attention of the IPCC.

2. Conclusions

62. On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA took note of the document prepared by the secretariat on research and systematic observation (FCCC/SBSTA/10/Add.1);

(b) The SBSTA welcomed the activities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and other participants developing the Climate Agenda, and invited these organizations to inform the SBSTA on recent activities to coordinate long-term monitoring and research programmes related to the oceans and the atmosphere in support of Article 5 of the Convention, particularly the establishment of

---

[3] The Valdivia Group is comprised of Argentina, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Uruguay.

capacity and capability-building mechanisms to assist the full participation of developing countries;

(c) The SBSTA requested the secretariat to explore the situation with respect to other areas of research, observation and data processing, relevant to Articles 5 and 4.1(g), and report on this, as appropriate, at a future session or sessions of the SBSTA;

(d) The SBSTA invited the SBI to take account of Article 5, in particular Article 5(c), when considering the issue of guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention.

C. Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
(Agenda item 8 (c))

1. Proceedings

63. At its 6th meeting, on 11 July, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

64. The SBSTA had before it a note by the secretariat on this matter (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/10).

65. Statements were made by the representatives of eight Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

66. A statement was also made by a representative of an intergovernmental organization.

2. Conclusions

67. On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA took note of the information on the work undertaken by the IPCC in response to requests from the SBSTA and the AGBM;

(b) The SBSTA expressed its satisfaction with the cooperation between the SBSTA and the IPCC, *inter alia*, through their respective Bureaux and secretariats;

(c) The SBSTA welcomed the plans of the IPCC to prepare technical papers, workshops and special reports, as indicated in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/10, and invited the secretariat to keep it informed on the progress and outcome of the IPCC work.

D. Review of the longer-term programme
(Agenda item 8 (d))

1. Proceedings

68. At its 6th meeting, on 11 July, the SBSTA considered the sub-item on review of the longer-term programme.

69. The SBSTA had before it a note by the secretariat on this matter (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/10).

2. Conclusions

70. On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA endorsed the schedule for its longer-term work programme, as presented in document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/10, recognizing its tentative nature;

(b) The SBSTA took note of the summary report by the secretariat of a meeting on methodologies, held with relevant international organizations (see FCCC/SBSTA/1996/CRP.1) and requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the matter for the fourth session.

IX. REPORT ON THE SESSION
(Agenda item 9)

71. The SBSTA considered the item on the report on the session at its 8th and 10th meetings, on 15 and 16 July, respectively. At its 10th meeting, on 16 July 1996, the SBSTA requested the Chairman, in the absence of an elected Rapporteur, to prepare the report, with the assistance of the secretariat, taking into account the discussions and the conclusions reached during the session, as well as the need for editorial adjustments.

72. The Chairman, after thanking all participants for their constructive cooperation, declared the third session of the SBSTA closed.

Annex I

DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS THIRD SESSION

The following documents were before the SBSTA at its third session:

FCCC/CP/1996/1	Provisional agenda and annotations, including suggestions for the organization of work
FCCC/CP/1996/1/Add.2	Provisional agenda and annotations, including suggestions for the organization of work. List of documents for the second session of the Conference of the Parties and concurrent sessions of subsidiary bodies
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/4/Add.2	Initial report on an inventory and assessment of technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change: additions to the technology inventory database
FCCC/CP/1996/5 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
FCCC/CP/1996/5/Add.1 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.1/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The science of climate change: contribution of Working Group I of the IPCC
FCCC/CP/1996/5/Add.2 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.2/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Scientific-technical analyses of impacts, adaptations, and mitigation of climate change: contribution of Working Group II of the IPCC
FCCC/CP/1996/5/Add.3 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Add.3/Rev.1	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The economic and social dimensions of climate change: contribution of Working Group III of the IPCC

FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9	Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. Possible revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9/Add.1	Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. Possible revisions to the guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: methodological issues
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9/Add.2	Communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration. Detailed information on electricity trade and international bunker fuels
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/10 and Add.1	Programme of work: progress report on issues in the programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/11	Mechanisms for non-governmental organization consultations: workshop on consultative mechanisms for non-governmental organization inputs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FCCC/CP/1996/10 FCCC/SBSTA/1996/12	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. IPCC second assessment synthesis of scientific-technical information relevant to interpreting Article 2 of the UNFCCC and summaries for policymakers of Working Groups I, II, and III of the IPCC
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.2	Workshop on consultative mechanisms for non-governmental organization inputs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: views of non-governmental organizations
FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.3	Establishment of intergovernmental technical advisory panel(s). Comments from Parties: positions of the Group of 77 and China, and of the United States of America

FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.4	Consideration of the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC. Research and observation issues. National communications. Establishment of a roster of experts. Development and transfer of technologies. Comments from Parties

The following documents were also available:

FCCC/SB/1996/MISC.1/Add.1	National communications. Approach paper by the Group of 77 and China on recommendations on guidelines and format for preparation of initial communications from non-Annex I Parties
FCCC/SB/1996/L.2	National communications. Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. Guidelines for preparation of initial communications from non-Annex I Parties. Draft decision submitted by the Group of 77 and China

Annex II

SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS: CONSIDERATION AND USE OF THE SECOND ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SBSTA OF DISCUSSION AND DRAFT DECISION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS SECOND SESSION

1 Discussions on this item were held during the 1st, 2nd, 9th and 10th meetings of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on 9, 15 and 16 July 1996.

2 The documents prepared for the session (FCCC/CP/1996/5, FCCC/CP/1996/10, FCCC/SBSTA/1996/7/Rev.1 and Add.1-3/Rev.1, FCCC/SBSTA/1996/MISC.4), the previous discussion on the item (see paragraphs 18 to 32 of document FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8) and decision 6/CP.1 outlining the terms of reference of the SBSTA, formed the backdrop for the discussion.

3 The discussion was prefaced by a statement by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who also responded to questions raised.

4 Statements were made by 50 Parties, including one on behalf of the European Community and its member States, another on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and another on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

5 Representatives of two States not Parties to the Convention also made statements.

6 A representative of one non-governmental organization made a statement.

7 In general, it was considered that:

(a) The Second Assessment Report of the IPCC represents currently the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of the available scientific and technical information regarding global climate change, its impacts and policy implications;

(b) The authors of the report and all scientists and other experts involved in its preparation were to be commended for the time, effort and dedication devoted to the report;

(c) The Second Assessment Report should be considered in its entirety;

8. It was noted that:

(a) The Second Assessment Report gives an assessment of the likelihood of current and future climate change and related impacts, taking into account remaining uncertainties.

(b) The Second Assessment Report considers the vulnerability of natural and human systems to climate change, and thresholds of damage, but does not quantify what constitutes "dangerous anthropogenic interference" with the climate system as defined in Article 2 of the Convention. Such an assessment will be required to fully address the ultimate objective of the Convention.

(c) More information will be required on regional scenarios of climate change and more effort should be directed at reducing uncertainties in current knowledge of climate change.

(d) "No regrets" policies and measures were available for immediate use in many countries at little or no cost. There are large differences in the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing sinks, among countries due to their states of economic development, infrastructure choices, and natural resource base.

(e) The socio-economic impacts on, and vulnerability of most developing countries in such areas as agriculture, water resources and public health, particularly in those countries with low-lying coastal areas and the small island developing States, must be taken into account.

(f) The vulnerability of many countries, including developing countries and countries relying on production of fossil fuels, to the economic impacts of potential policies or measures to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions must be addressed.

(g) There is a need for all Parties to meet their commitments taking into account the need for equity and differentiated responsibilities.

9. There were divergent views on the implications of the Second Assessment Report for the Convention. Views were expressed that the Second Assessment Report provides a reliable basis for Parties to take further action to mitigate climate change and that it should be considered carefully by the Conference of the Parties (COP) and particularly by the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM), in their future activities, as a basis for urgent action. Views were also expressed that due to the scientific uncertainties and lack of sufficient economic analysis in the Second Assessment Report it would be premature to take action beyond appropriate 'no regrets' policies and measures to mitigate climate change now, and that more research is required, and that the Second Assessment Report does not provide adequate information to determine what

constitutes dangerous levels of greenhouse gas concentrations to use the report for achieving the objective of the Convention (Article 2).

10. In subsequent discussion, the SBSTA prepared the following draft decision, but could not reach consensus on its paragraph 1, as indicated in the draft by two alternatives in square brackets.

11. The SBSTA authorized its Chairman to convey this draft decision to the COP, with the request that COP further consider it with a view to reaching agreement on a decision regarding the use of the Second Assessment Report of the IPCC.

Draft decision -/CP.2

Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the mandate of the SBSTA as given in Article 9 and decision 6/CP.1 (FCCC/CP/7/Add.1) to,

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge relating to climate change and its effects (Article 9.2 (a)). In this context,

(a) Summarize and, where necessary, convert the latest international scientific, technical, socio-economic and other information provided by competent bodies, including, *inter alia*, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), into forms appropriate to the needs of the Conference of the Parties,

(b) Compile and synthesize scientific, technical and socio-economic information on the global situation on climate change, provided by, *inter alia*, the IPCC, as well as on the latest developments in science, to the extent possible, and assess the implications thereof for the implementation of the Convention; and formulate requests to competent international scientific and technical bodies,

Recalling also that the SBSTA held an exchange of views on the Second Assessment Report during its second and third sessions (FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8 and ..) and the recommendations of the SBSTA,

Notes that the Second Assessment Report needs to be considered as a whole;

Considers the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to be the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment now available of the scientific and technical information regarding global climate change;

1. [*Decides* that, the Second Assessment Report be used as basis for urgent action to further the implementation of the Convention and for developing a protocol or other legal instrument, as provided for in the Berlin Mandate;]

1. [*Decides* that, the Second Assessment Report should be taken into account during consideration of the implementation of the Convention, including informing the process of negotiation, bearing in mind the uncertainties and lack of certain information in the report. Furthermore, the lack of the assessment of the dangerous levels of the concentration of greenhouse gases for the climate system does not allow to use the Second Assessment Report for achieving the main goal of the Convention (Article 2);]

2. *Expresses* its appreciation to the IPCC, particularly the Chairman of the IPCC and all its authors and scientists, for their excellent work in drawing up the Second Assessment Report;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the IPCC to undertake the work programme requested in support of SBSTA and AGBM;

4. *Urges* continuing cooperation between the Convention bodies and the IPCC.

- - - - -